

The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner



Winter 2009/2010

Volume 23, Number 4

What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot

After a spell of cold and wet weather, we have had some beautiful weather in November. I have tried to put it to use in planting trees. Nuts, actually. I figure if it works for squirrels, perhaps it will work for me as well.

We have three walnut trees in the yard. The walnut crop varies from year to year, and this year the nuts were small but plentiful. As you can probably imagine, having walnuts on the ground where you run the lawnmower can be hard on windows, so we try to keep the nuts picked up. This year we filled five or six five-gallon pails with walnuts from the yard.

The primary goal is to get them out of the yard. In the past, we have dumped them in the field behind the house, and some have sprouted from those piles. For the past couple of years we have tried planting some, with the idea that if we get trees, all to the good; and if we don't, we haven't lost anything except an hour or so of time.

We have tried several different ways of planting. One is to simply drive a shovel or bar into the ground to open up a hole,

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Lamberton Conservatory Woods Walk

On a mid October day that felt more like a mid November day, 16 WFL members toured the Lamberton Conservatory & portions of Highland park. If we were visitors to Rochester these would be on our "must see" list.



A Turkey Oak Acorn.

Noelle Nagel shared her love for and knowledge of plants as we strolled the conservatory. Plants from all over the world can be found there including 1 from Home Depot. The variety of colors was breath

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What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot

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drop a nut in, and stomp it closed. Another is to take a pick or a shovel and drive it through the sod around three sides of a small square, pry up the sod, drop in a couple nuts, and flop the sod back on top of them. Both of these seem similar to what a squirrel would do if it was burying the nuts. Neither requires a great deal of effort, although I do find that swinging a pick tends to lose its appeal pretty quickly.

This year, after a couple tries, I settled on an even simpler method. The ground where I wanted to plant most of the nuts is quite soft – courtesy of some local beavers, but that is a story for another time. I walked along through the weeds, dropping a nut every step or so and stomping it into the mud.

Naturally, as soon as I had disposed of all the nuts I thought of a planting method that might be even simpler – open up a shallow furrow with a plow, strew the nuts in like planting peas, and close up the furrow over them. I hope I can remember that plan when the time comes to get rid of the nuts next year.

I don't expect any of these methods to be terribly successful, at least as measured by the percentage of nuts that sprout. But they accomplish the major objective – getting the nuts out of the yard – and perhaps I will get some nice trees as a result.

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My Woodlot - Commentary

Being a chapter chair gives me the opportunity to read other chapter newsletters. This is a great opportunity and I really enjoy receiving the Western Finger Lakes issue because Mike Seager and Dick Starr always come up with thought provoking topics. Upon receiving the latest issue, I wrote Mike Seager about his *What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot* column.

Many of your chapter members do not know me; so I'll introduce myself as a forester active in the Capital District Chapter. I'm generally looking for ideas that we can steal for our chapter and enjoy offering unsolicited comments. Yet, after I wrote Mike about his column, he asked me to try to offer some comments that could be shared in your newsletter. That's a challenge because it is always easier to make quick off the cuff comments than better thought out discussion; but I'll try.

First, let me say that many ideas in forest management are continuing to evolve. As technologies continue to develop, so do our understanding of how natural resources respond. When I started my career, we thinned every woodlot to 80 square feet of basal area. In writing Mike, I commented that 100 feet of basal area might not always be key to thinning need. That 100% relative density is a better measure. I went on to say, oak stands with their large cabbage tops become fully stocked at lower basal area than black cherry, ash or poplar stands with their narrower crowns. Conifers, like hemlock and spruce, also can carry higher basal area.

So, I encouraged him to download the Forest Service Northeast Decision Model (NED-1) and inventory by species, diameters, merchantable height, and product code. (I like NED-1 better than NED-2 because I haven't successfully gotten over some hurdles with NED-2.) Sometimes one will find that nobody told the trees they have to pay attention to these software modeling programs. I've seen stands around 75 or 80% relative density showing natural mortality due to competition and I've seen stands at over 115% relative density where no trees are dying. Some of these high density stands may be approaching 200 square feet of basal area. That is not to say, they would not benefit from thinning. But it may indicate that there are factors that are more complicated than at least I can understand.

And, it was one of your members, John Marchant, our former volunteer Executive Director, who helped me come to see the vision that this is a more complex system than we can totally get our hands around. John, one of my heroes, is not a forester; but he helped me appreciate the complexity of this dynamic resource we are blessed with.

So, where am I going? I am encouraging you to look with questioning minds as Mike does. Explore your woods. Use homemade angle gauges; play with various software programs; just wander and wonder. Talk with foresters and other natural resource professionals and have fun. We all can continually expand our horizons. We can debate the technologies and science. And, we can continue to observe. This peer interaction is part of what NYFOA is all about.

Mike Greason

~ Upcoming Events ~

General Meeting - "Friends with Feathers"

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010, 7:30PM

Cornell Cooperative Extension Building Auditorium
249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620

Our featured presenter will be Ron Walker of Friends with Feathers, Limited. Ron has an extensive wildlife education background. He taught high school biology for 30 years and has been a scout leader and nature interpreter for more than 25 years, helping students of

all ages to understand their natural environment. He was instrumental in the development of Tinker Nature Park in Henrietta, and is a former presenter at Cummings Nature Center. He will discuss the natural history and biology of birds of prey. He will be displaying some live birds

of prey during his presentation.

The Friends with Feathers aviary is home to birds of prey that can not be released into the wild (due to an injury or defect) and are available for educational programs in ecology and conservation.

Keith Maynard

Sugarbush Hollow Woods Walk

Saturday, April 10th, 2010, 10AM to 2PM

Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow
8447 Pardee Hollow Road, Springwater, New York 14560

This will be the 8th Annual Woods Walk at the Sugar House of Sugarbush Hollow. Chuck Winship will provide information on new spout technology aimed at increasing production and how the 2010 syrup season panned out (pun intended). We will tour Chuck's 5 year old, 6 acre, sugar maple and black cherry plantation. This plantation was done under the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. Chuck has recently planted some 'super sweet' sugar maple trees that were purchased from RPM Ecosystems in Dryden. Steve Harris, RPM Ecosystems' Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager, describes his company's product - "RPM Ecosystems grows native trees and shrubs from local seed using a patented method that leads to high post-planting survival, growth 2 to 3 times faster than bare-root seedlings and early flower and seed production." Steve will discuss the types of projects they are involved in give a presentation

on how root production method trees are grown and what their advantages are. We will also have Dan Weykman or JoBeth Bellanca from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Livingston County give an overview of their numerous landowner assistance programs with the focus being on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - which is aimed at providing financial assistance to forest landowners to implement forestry and wildlife practices. Visit the following website for links to the landowner programs that NRCS has to offer - www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Chuck will also arrange to serve pancakes with fresh maple syrup during the woodswalk - always a tasty treat! We hope to see you again this year!

Directions to Sugarbush Hollow Sugar House:

*From the north or east take New York State Route 21 south through

Naples, New York. Go one mile past North Cohocton, New York staying on Route 21. Turn Right on to County Route 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn Left on to Pardey Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

*From the west, south or south east take New York State Route 21 north from Interstate 86 (Route 17) through Wayland, New York. About 6 miles past Wayland turn left onto County Road 38 also known as Rowe Road and Atlanta Garling House Road. Go 0.6 miles turn Left on to Pardey Hollow Road also known as Pardee Hollow Road. We are located at 8447 Pardee Hollow Road on the right about 3 miles up.

For more information contact Chuck Winship at 585 943 3475 or cew9@cornell.edu

Mark Gooding

What I've Been Doing in My Woodlot

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I would like to try something similar with acorns. Last time I had a big crop of acorns I collected a few handfuls and some of them are growing now, but I have not tried planting them in large numbers. At our October woodswalk in Highland Park there were lots of acorns on the ground and I could have filled a wheelbarrow with them in just a few minutes, but I did not have a wheelbarrow on hand and so missed the opportunity.

Each spring I usually buy a few seedlings from the local Soil and Water Conservation District and/or from the Arbor Day Society. I have never had great success with them, and while the cash outlay is not large – usually around \$50 or so – I always feel a pang when something I paid for dies because the deer got to it, or I planted it badly, or for any of a hundred other reasons. I have found that I much prefer planting seeds that I can collect for free; when the only investment I have to make is time, I feel a lot freer to experiment with different plants and different techniques.

I will use this column to record the success (or lack thereof) I have with these various plantings. If anybody else has found good ways to propagate trees, I encourage you to get in touch with our newsletter editor and share your ideas with the rest of us.

Mike Seager

Chapter Finances

The New York Forest Owners Association is a not for profit organization. The Western Finger Lakes chapter board of directors tries to keep an eye on income and expenses. Our major source of revenue is a \$5 rebate from the state for each WFL membership.

Our expenses include renting the Cornell Cooperative room for general meetings and paying any expenses related to speakers. There's also an additional cost if a speaker needs projection equipment. Our annual dinner meeting adds renting the kitchen facility for chef Brad to use.

Through good stewardship and a 300 plus membership, the largest in NYFOA, WFL chapter had approximately \$9300 in its treasury in September 2005. The WFL board was advised that this could be perceived as excessive in a not for profit organization and we might want to consider ways to reduce the number.

In response we began helping with the expenses for members willing to take the Game of Logging classes and Master Forest Owner training. At about the same time we began having our annual dinner meetings. The WFL board of directors decided to subsidize these dinner functions by paying some of the cost.

Our first annual dinner meeting in 2006 cost \$802 more than we took in. In 2007 we ran a \$1202 deficit and 2008 showed a \$780 loss. The difference for 2009 was lowered to \$536 because the chapter subsidized less of the cost. In 4 years the annual dinner meeting alone has reduced our bank account by \$3320.

Prior to the November 2009 annual dinner meeting we had approximately \$4200 in our bank account. Treasurer Ron Reitz states, "I think we need to cut back!" and I suspect the board will agree.

Dick Starr



Touring Highland with Kent Millham.

Photo by Mary Ann Rutkowski.

Lamberton Conservatory Woods Walk

Continued from cover.

taking but the Golden Barrel Cactus caught my eye. A native of Mexico and the southwest US, this spherical “porcupine” invites a touch of the most delicate kind – yes, those spikes are sharp.

Then Kent Millham took us on a hike through a portion of Highland park to view the trees. The first stop was a Jack Oak with 13 foot circumference and 135 foot spread. Then a weeping beech with limbs that droop like a weeping willow. The weeping Linden flowers in July with an odor that can be detected a mile away and intoxicates pollinating bees.

The turkey oak has acorns with a tuft of “hair” on top. How about the blue ash with twigs that are square? If the whole tree grew that way a sawyer could make boards with less waste. Why are trees round and not square?

Highland has several state champion trees and 1 national champion. For champion status, measurements of circumference, branch spread and height are made.

Dick Starr



Visitors admire a champion tree.

Photo by Mary Ann Rutkowski

Summer 2009 Stumpage Report

Species	Western/Central Doyle Rule			New York State Stumpage Price Report Summer 2009/#75	
	Low Price Range (Median)	Average Price Range (Median)	High Price Range (Median)		
Most Common Species					
Ash, White	50-250 (150)	100-325 (200)	150-450 (250)	Sawtimber Price (Including Veneer and Poles) Dollars per Thousand Board Feet	
Cherry, Black	200-600 (400)	275-1470 (600)	500-1900 (800)		
Maple, Red (Soft)	75-255 (150)	90-350 (200)	150-500 (250)		
Maple, Sugar (Hard)	125-500 (325)	200-700 (450)	250-1000 (600)		
Oak, Red	85-350 (200)	150-550 (300)	200-650 (400)		
Pine, White	20-100* (50)	40-125* (75)	50-150* (90)		
Less Common Species					
Aspen	10-30** (20)	20-100* (40)	25-60* (50)		
Basswood	40-125* (75)	50-180 (125)	100-250* (150)		
Beech	25-55* (50)	20-100* (50)	30-200* (80)		
Birch, Yellow	50-150* (100)	75-250* (150)	100-375* (200)		
Birch, White	NR	100-200** (150)	NR		
Butternut	50-200* (115)	75-300* (150)	100-450* (250)		
Elm, American	NR	100-125** (115)	NR		
Hemlock	20-50* (30)	20-125 (50)	30-125* (80)		
Hickory (spp.)	50-150* (90)	50-225* (100)	100-300* (165)		
Oak, Chestnut	25-200* (100)	50-250* (125)	100-400* (200)		
Oak, White	90-300 (140)	150-250 (200)	200-425* (300)		
Pine, Red	40-75* (55)	45-115* (80)	50-180* (125)		
Spruce (spp.)	75-80** (75)	50-115* (100)	75-130** (125)		
Tulip Poplar	50-125* (90)	75-200* (150)	100-300* (200)		
Walnut, Black	300-600* (400)	400-800* (600)	500-1500* (800)		
Cordwood Price Dollars per Standard Cord					
Aspen	NR	4-18** (6)	NR		
Birch, White	NR	NR	NR		
Hemlock	NR	6-7** (7)	NR		
Mixed N. Hardwoods	4-10** (7)	3-33* (10)	5-15** (14)		
Pine	NR	NR	NR		
Spruce/Fir	NR	NR	NR		
Firewood	6-10* (8)	5-30* (12)	12-21* (15)		

Low Price Range - reported range of the absolute lowest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Average Price Range - reported range of the average price paid for "middle quality" timber by survey respondents over the last six months.

High Price Range - reported range of the absolute highest price paid by survey respondents over the last six months.

Median - One half of reported prices are higher and one-half are lower than this price figure.

Doyle, International ¼" and Scribner Rules - Provide an estimated volume in board feet of a given tree or stand of trees. In most cases, each rule will provide a different volume estimate when applied to identical trees. Each region of the state has a most commonly used rule, but the use of other rules in a region is possible.

NR - No Report.

* All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 20 survey responses.

** All price figures in this cell were produced from less than 5 survey responses.

Tree Tubes for Sale

Proceeds benefit the WFL Chapter

	Member Price	Non-Member Price
4 foot tube	\$3.80	\$4.30
4 foot tube with stake	4.25	4.75
5 foot tube	4.35	4.85
5 foot tube with stake	4.85	5.35

Contact:

Ron Reitz, *WFL Treasurer*
 6086 Canadice Hill Road, Springwater, NY 14560
 (585)367-2847 • rrrlpr@aol.com

Welcome New Members

Steve Groet
Springwater, NY

Robert Holevinski
Livonia, NY

Kent Millham
Webster, NY

Noelle Nagel
Rochester, NY

Marie Pope
North Chili, NY

FOR SALE

Heavy duty snatch block, side opening & swivel hook \$45.

Dale Schaefer 585-367-2849

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The Western Finger Lakes Forest Owner is published for members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) and is published 4 times per year. NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, protecting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Western Finger Lakes chapter was founded in 1988 and encompasses Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates counties.

Membership is open to anyone interested in understanding how to manage a woodlot. NYFOA membership can bring returns in the satisfaction of growing quality timber, stabilizing forest industries and markets, providing permanent jobs, increasing the value of your woods, enlarging areas of natural beauty across the state, and leaving behind a monument in living trees to bless the tomorrows for the boys and girls of today. For information on becoming a NYFOA member, contact Liana Gooding, NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families and includes: subscriptions to this newsletter; to the bimonthly NYFOA state-wide publication, *The New York Forest Owner*; attendance at chapter meetings; and at two statewide meetings. Membership at the Contributing level (\$50- \$100) and Supporting level (\$101 & up) are also offered. For more information visit www.nyfoa.org.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Articles should be mailed or e-mailed to: Richard Starr at the address to the left. Electronic submissions are preferred. Any letters should be sent to the Chair for consideration.



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